

covers the surface of the corresponding first layer of material.

3. (currently amended) The fabric of claim 1 wherein the second layer of material of some of the guard plate assemblies does not completely cover the surface of the corresponding first layer of material.

4. (previously presented) The fabric of claim 1 wherein some of the gaps between the guard plate assemblies include material corresponding to the second layer of material.

5. (previously presented) The fabric of claim 4 wherein some of the gaps are filled with material corresponding to the second layer of material.

6. (previously presented) The fabric of claim 1 and further comprising a second plurality of guard plate assemblies affixed to the fabric substrate, each guard plate assembly of the second plurality having an upper surface formed from a material different than the material of the second layer.

7. (previously presented) The fabric of claim 6 wherein the upper surface of each of the second plurality of guard plate assemblies is formed from the first material.

8. (previously presented) The fabric of claim 1 wherein the guard plate assemblies include a third layer of material joined to a surface of the second layer of material, the third layer of material being different than the second layer of material.

9. (previously presented) The fabric of claim 1 wherein the second layer of material has a surface property that has higher friction than the first material.

10. (previously presented) The fabric of claim 1 wherein the second layer of material has a surface property that is more resistive to wear than the first layer of material.

Claims 11-14 (canceled)

15. (new) A fabric comprising a fabric substrate and a single layer of non-overlapping guard plate assemblies affixed to a top surface of the fabric substrate, wherein each guard plate assembly includes a printable first layer of material joined to the top surface of the fabric substrate, and a second layer of material joined to the first layer of material opposite the fabric substrate.

16. (new) The fabric of claim 15, wherein the printable first layer of material is joined directly to the top surface of the fabric substrate.

17. (new) The fabric of claim 16, wherein the printable first layer of material comprises epoxy.